Final Report

Recommended Evaluation Criteria

And

Future Site Use Preferences

For the Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens Sites

May 30, 2002

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and

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For:

The Joint Action Group
For Environmental Clean-Up
of the Muggah Creek Watershed

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General Summary

From mid-January until mid-April, 2002, the Joint Action Group conducted Step 1 (finalize its Public Participation Plan) and Step 2 (define evaluation criteria for use in the selection of cleanup options) of its Public Participation Plan designed to involve the community in cleanup options for the Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens sites. Assisting members of the JAG Secretariat throughout the process were a facilitator from Peacekeeping Education Associates and the Project Manager from Conestoga-Rovers & Associates. People Development Limited was engaged to analyze data collected and to prepare findings. Peacekeeping Education Associates prepared the introductory material to this report and Part I (The Public Participation Process). People Development Limited prepared Part II (Data Analysis and Findings.)

Over 600 members of the local community took part in one of the 75 meetings held during the various phases of the process. Four hundred and fifty-four Evaluation Criteria Workbooks and 321 Future Site Use forms were completed.

Based on impressions gained and views heard during the meetings, the Facilitator concluded that ample opportunity was afforded residents of CBRM to participate in the process leading to the selection of evaluation criteria. The vast majority of those who attended meetings appreciated the opportunity to give their views about the cleanup of the Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens sites and on potential future uses of the sites. There is now a feeling in the community that the corner has been turned and that cleanup will take place. JAG must continue its varied and extensive public information and education campaigns to ensure extensive future participation opportunities in all phases of its mandate.

The data analysis determined that "the greatest trend that emerges from the data is the public's desire to minimize all health risks and maximize long-term benefits to the community using a reliable, proven technology." Participants were offered three opportunities to make their views known: the Criteria Evaluation Workbook numerical ranking system, the workbook general comments section and the Future Site Use form.

The Evaluation Criteria most important to participants within the Core Principles are:

- Environmentally Sound: enhance the long term effectiveness and permanence of the cleanup
- Economically Responsible: use the most reliable technology
- Health Conscious: minimize risk to health
- Socially Acceptable: maximize long term benefits to the community

This draft report will be sent to all participants who requested a copy. In addition, it will be made available to the general public via multiple sources. Comments and suggestions are welcome as we prepare the report.

The final list of Evaluation Criteria and Future Site Use Preferences will be delivered to CBCL by the end of May, 2002.

Background

From mid-January to mid-April, 2002, citizens of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality were offered opportunities to comment on the Joint Action Group Public Participation Plan, aid in defining of evaluation criteria for use when designing cleanup options for the Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens sites and to indicate their preferences for future uses of the sites.

The aims of this Draft Report are to:

- set out the background to the development of evaluation criteria and future site use
- describe the process developed and utilized at each meeting of interested citizens
- convey the impressions and comments of the Facilitator
- indicate a course for the future

The Draft Report is in two parts with accompanying material.

Part I of the Draft Report discusses the Public Participation Plan process to date. It describes the goals, objectives and methodology used to gather views of participants on draft evaluation criteria in the context of the six core principles of the Joint Action Group as they apply to the cleanup of the Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens sites. It also includes certain participation statistics and impressions.

Part II is a compilation of the hundreds of responses. It describes the process used in the analysis of the responses and groups them, in a variety of forms, according to importance.

Part I – The Public Participation Process

The Start

The mission of the Joint Action Group (JAG) is to educate, involve and empower the community through partnerships, to determine and implement acceptable solutions for Canada's worst hazardous waste site and to assess the impact on human health.

JAG, which was established in 1996, is a community-based organization composed of volunteers, technical advisors, from various levels and departments of governments, and a small secretariat. It functions according to a set of procedures that has evolved through experience.

In 2001, JAG developed a Public Participation Plan which outlines "a process that ensures the residents of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality have opportunities for meaningful input into the recommendations that will be made to government concerning cleanup options for the Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens sites." A copy of the Public Participation Plan can be found at www.muggah.org or can be obtained at the JAG Secretariat offices, the UCCB Library and the McConnell Memorial Library.

The public participation process dealing with the cleanup of the Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens sites is distinctive in environmental cleanup efforts. In this case, the JAG members and Secretariat staff ensure that the community has the opportunity to be involved, to participate from the beginning, and be able to comment on and be involved in all aspects of the process.

In the Public Participation Plan, the goals and objectives of the entire public participation process are described as follows:

Goals:

- To have broad, meaningful community involvement in the development of evaluation criteria for cleanup options for the Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens sites. This will include:
    a. Developing evaluation criteria used to evaluate potential cleanup options, and
    b. Commenting on the final proposed cleanup options.
- To identify ways to keep the community involved during the cleanup phase.

Objectives:

- To recognize community knowledge and encourage input.
- To provide opportunities for mutual education and discussion.
- To provide ways and means for ongoing community development.
- To show how the community's contribution is reflected in the recommendations for developing evaluation criteria.

The Plan describes evaluation criteria as indicators of what is important to participants in the public participation process in the design of cleanup options.

Objectives

The objectives of the portion of the public participation process devoted to the selection of draft and final evaluation criteria and their submission to CBCL (Step 2) were to:

- obtain wide participation in terms of public interest groups and the broader community
- seek considered views on evaluation criteria
- seek considered views on future site uses
- seek views of participants on the criteria selection workshops

Approach

Finalizing the Public Participation Plan and obtaining recommendations on draft evaluation criteria for use in the selection of cleanup options proceeded as follows:

- contact meetings were held with group representatives to explain the process and ask for cooperation and participation in the following phases;

- presentation meetings at which the Public Participation Plan was presented and explained to group members; and

- community group workshops, neighbourhood coffee breaks, face to face contacts, use of the Internet, citizens meetings (randomly selected) in which participants were asked to complete a workbook ranking various evaluation criteria and, from the third meeting onwards, to provide their views on future site use. In addition, a number of citizens visited the JAG office to obtain and complete workbooks. All were also given an opportunity to give their views on general questions relative to criteria selection and were asked to evaluate the workshop process and content.

Implementation

JAG, in cooperation with Environment Canada engaged the services of an Independent Facilitator, Mr. Alex Morrison – President of Peacekeeping Education Associates. He assisted the process by aiding in the identification of groups representing a wide range of functional areas, facilitating meetings and aiding JAG in other aspects of the entire process, including training and education sessions for JAG members and volunteers.

Contact Meetings

Initial contact meetings involved a member of the JAG Secretariat and the Facilitator meeting with the president or another senior official of 25 groups. The purpose of this meeting was to explain the Public Participation Plan and to seek agreement of those representatives to assemble a selection of their group's members to review and comment on the plan following a presentation on its concept and content. The subject of an additional meeting to gather views on evaluation criteria was also raised and support sought. All but one representative agreed to attend and play an active role in both meetings. Each also agreed to consider positively attending or being represented at the January 31 launch of the Public Participation Plan. Contact meetings were approximately 30 minutes in length. Initially, representatives of some very active community-minded groups which JAG and the Facilitator felt could contribute much to the process agreed to participate. However, for various reasons it was not possible to schedule meetings.

Launch of the Public Participation Plan

The public participation process was publicly launched on January 31 at a three hour gathering chaired by the Facilitator. Approximately 55 people representing a cross section of the community attended this meeting. A number were new to JAG meetings and both they and other attendees expressed a great deal of interest and willingness to cooperate in the process in a variety of ways.

Presentation Meetings

The next step in the process was a series of 17 presentation meetings with a total of 67 participants. At each of these meetings, the Facilitator outlined the Public Participation Plan, described the public participation process, asked for comments and questions and requested that the group meet once again with increased attendance if possible. The purpose of these meetings was to seek participation in the process of commenting on draft evaluation criteria that are important to the design of cleanup options. Fifty-nine comments were received on the plan. Each presentation meeting lasted approximately one hour.

Evaluation Criteria Workshops and the Community Workbook

Thirty-three meetings dealing with evaluation criteria were held and were attended by approximately 400 persons. During each of these meetings the Facilitator and a technical expert from Conestoga-Rovers & Associates (project management consultants) explained the process, guided participants through a consideration of draft evaluation criteria contained in a community workbook and asked them to rank the evaluation criteria. Opportunities were also provided for participants to comment on reasons for their ranking and to answer a series of other questions concerning various aspects of the cleanup process. Additionally, a member of the JAG Secretariat and the Conestoga-Rovers & Associates representative presented a slide show on future site use following which participants were asked to complete a questionnaire.

The criteria evaluation sessions followed a standard format constantly adjusted to take account of results of previous meetings and group characteristics. They were held at a number of locations: the organization's own facility; the JAG conference room; community halls; service club and other community organization halls; craft centres, junior and senior high schools; a university classroom; CBRM; and private homes.

The Facilitator opened the sessions and introduced himself, indicated he would be guiding the proceedings and explained essential background material necessary to establish context. He then introduced the representative of Conestoga-Rovers & Associates, the JAG Chair and the JAG Secretariat Staff member responsible for recording comments made by participants. Virtually all comments made at each of the meetings (contact, presentation, workshop) were recorded by one of a team of two JAG staff. Each meeting lasted from two to three hours. There were 33 community workbook sessions. In all, 454 workbooks were completed, including 16 received electronically. The lower number of 321 Future Site Use forms received reflects the fact that it was brought into use after the process had started and also because, from time to time, some participants would leave the meetings following completion of the workbook.

The community workbook was explained with illustrative examples. Attention was drawn to the "Countdown to Cleanup" chart. At each session it was pointed out that the purpose of the event was to seek advice on evaluation criteria to be used in the design of cleanup options for the Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens sites and that any possible options would not be discussed. Participants were informed that they would view a slide show on Future Site Use and would have an opportunity to indicate their views on that subject and would also be asked to complete

a participant evaluation form. At most sessions, following completion of the community workbook, a number of participants would stay on for further discussions.

Each succeeding session built on the results of all the previous gatherings. Lessons learned were quickly adopted and adapted to take full advantage of community comments and suggestions that reflected a richness and diversity of views.

Promotional Initiatives

The selection criteria and future site use process and meetings were extensively advertised on radio, community television, the JAG website, in the *Cape Breton Post* (JAG LINKS, full page advertisements, notices of meetings, etc), in the Whitney Pier newspaper *Novynka*, and by distribution of a brochure to each of the approximately 45,000 CBRM households). Organizations hosting meetings also created and distributed their own informational material. The extensive JAG organizational and governance structure of committees, work groups and membership also cooperated in drawing attention to the process.

Copies of the Public Participation Plan and the Community Workbook were, and remain available to the public at the University College of Cape Breton Library, the JW McConnell Memorial Library, the JAG office and on the JAG website.

Facilitator's Impressions and Comments

- A total of 625 interested citizens participated: in the launch of the public participation process, a contact meeting, a presentation meeting, or an evaluation criteria workshop. Extensive JAG and other promotional activities ensured that all residents of CBRM had a reasonable opportunity to be aware of, and participate in the process.

- Participants appreciated the opportunity to meet with, and give their views to, people familiar with the entire process leading to cleanup of the Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens sites. There was a richness and diversity of views that indicated a positive interest in the cleanup.

- There was a general feeling that the situation had been studied to excess and that now was the time to begin substantive and substantial cleanup progress.

- In what was obviously a well-meaning way, the whole process was described as "labourious but necessary."

- The opportunity to learn more about the cleanup process was universally attractive.

- Many participants were adamant in their view that cleanup of the SYSCO site must be part of the overall Muggah Creek endeavour.

- The extensive JAG educational process needs to continue before, during and after the main cleanup.

- A good cross-section of organizational sectors from health, environment, economic, to social fields participated. Citizens from across Sydney and other parts of CBRM participated. A few individuals and groups whose participation and completion of community workbooks would have been welcome additions to the process declined invitations to participate. We are taking this into consideration, with the view of attracting even wider participation in the next round of consultations.

A Course For The Future

JAG's emphasis is on extensive community involvement. JAG should continue this approach and enhance its performance whenever possible. Comments and views gathered at each stage should continue to be considered and analyzed for future relevance and use.

The Public Participation Plan has been accepted as a sound document that should guide the future activities of JAG relative to the cleanup of the Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens sites. It should be adjusted and improved as appropriate as each of its undertakings is accomplished.

During the next eight months, leading up to the delivery of the Remedial Action Evaluation Report (RAER) by CBCL at the end of December, JAG should plan for and implement a wide and deep public information and discussion program. Its aims would be to discuss cleanup technologies, ensuring that all citizens of CBRM are as familiar as they wish to be, and generally filling the community's stated need for more information on all aspects of the cleanup.

Following receipt of the RAER, there will be a need for further, even more extensive, public involvement in the process that will lead up to JAG submitting, by the end of March, 2003, a recommendation on a cleanup option for the Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens sites to the three levels of government: Cape Breton Regional Municipality, Province of Nova Scotia, Government of Canada.

Countdown To Cleanup Of The Tar Ponds And Coke Ovens Site

COUNTDOWN	ACTIVITY	DATE	REMARKS
10	Public Participation Plan for community review and comment.	Jan. to Feb. 2002	Community input required to endorse plan.
9	Workshops - Selection of Evaluation Criteria.	Feb. to Apr. 2002	An opportunity for residents to have input into the evaluation criteria leading to the selection of cleanup options in **Block 5.**
8	Independent analysis of community input.	End April 200?	
7	Results of independent analysis of evaluation criteria to community.	May 1 To 15, 2002	Opportunity for commu[illegible]y to comment on Analyst's Report.
6	CBCL (a local engineering firm) uses the final evaluation criteria report, government regulations, results of all site testing, analysis of Tar Pond sludge, and review of all possible cleanup methods to create a Remedial Action Evaluation Report (RAER).	May to Dec. 2002	Continued community education and discussion about possible cleanup options. The Remedial Action Evaluation Report will identify options that could be used to clean up the Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens.
5	Community considers RAER cleanup options for the Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens site.	Jan. to March 2003	Community reviews advantages and disadvantages of each cleanup option.
4	With community input from **Block 5** JAG makes a recommendation to government partners on preferred cleanup option.	March 2003	
3	Government develops a cleanup plan.	March to June 2003	
2	Environmental Assessment of the project under Federal and Provincial Legislation begins.	March 2003	
1	Tendering process for the cleanup of the Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens site begins.	Fall 2004	

"OUR FUTURE, YOUR CHOICE"

Part 2: Data Analysis, Summary and Findings

Data Analysis Methodology

This section describes the methodology used to analyze data collected through community group workshops, neighbourhood coffee breaks, the Internet, citizens' meetings (randomly selected), face-to-face contacts, and walk-ins to the JAG office. There were two types of data collected: quantitative (rankings) and qualitative (written comments). Each type of data was treated in a different way, as described below.

Quantitative

All data was entered into the computer and tallied according to frequency: the number of times a criteria was ranked #1, #2, #3 etc. This tally is presented in both pie chart and bar chart format in the following sections to indicate the relative weighting allocated to each ranking option. The charts are presented to indicate the choices the public has made regarding each core principle, relative to all others as well as each criterion relative to the others.

Qualitative

The written comments offered in each of the major data collection tools include comments about:

- Each of the first 4 core principles ranked in the workbook,
- Final two core principles of community-driven and publicly accountable (workbook),
- General comments (last page of the workbook)

- Future site use questionnaire

> *All written comments were treated in the same way. Each comment was read, common themes were identified and comments were then grouped according to common themes. This is known as thematic analysis. Major themes are presented as findings in descending order by frequency to demonstrate which themes community members most frequently expressed.*

Total number of workbooks = 454 (includes 16 sent via E-mail)

Total number of future site use questionnaires = 321

Anomalies = *Anomalies include workbooks that were returned without rankings or with all criteria receiving the same ranking, (i.e. the number 1 (one) was allocated to each of the 5-6 criteria) as well as books which were left totally blank. Total number of anomalies is presented in each section. As it was impossible to decipher which criteria was preferred, these numbers were not entered with the others, as they would have skewed the totals. However, they were analyzed separately to determine if the totals corresponded to the priorities identified in the other workbooks. The results were consistent with the rest of the data. Although quantitative data from these workbooks was not entered, the written comments were grouped according to theme. In some cases, the anomalous data was not pervasive in any one workbook (i.e. the data might be anomalous for the Environmentally Sound evaluation criteria, but not for the Economically Sound evaluation criteria).*

Overview of Findings

The greatest trend that emerges from the data is the public's desire to minimize all health risks and maximize long-term benefits to the community, using a reliable, proven technology.

It is clear from the input offered by community members that their overwhelming desire is to have the Tar Pond and Coke Ovens sites cleaned up thoroughly and completely. The will of the people could be summarized in one quote: *"Do it soon! Do it right! Do it once!"*

The same priorities were expressed in each of the three data collection tools (workbook criteria ranking, workbook general comments and future site use questionnaire). This means that the data is validated by "triangulation". In other words, all three sources revealed the same information.

Each core principle will be presented in chart form and direct quotes from the qualitative comments will be offered that reflect the tone and focus of the written comments offered for each principle.

Evaluation Criteria

Environmentally Sound

The public has indicated very clearly that the cleanup must enhance the long-term effectiveness and permanence of the remediation (40%), reduce the detrimental effect on the environment (28%) and improve land and marine ecosystems (23%).

Economically Responsible

In relation to the core principle of economically responsible, the overwhelming response is to use the most reliable technology (68%), regardless of cost or use of local materials.

Health Conscious

The cleanup approach used must minimize risk to health (84%). If this is respected, the public indicates a willingness to tolerate the short-term disruptions, provided that current standards for dust, vapours, noise and traffic are met.

Socially Acceptable

According to the data, any cleanup solution chosen will be socially acceptable if it maximizes the long-term benefits to the community (59%). The use of local labour and minimizing cleanup time were secondary concerns, although they would be socially acceptable if possible.

Community Driven and Publicly Accountable

Qualitative comments offered in the sections related to community driven and publicly accountable reinforced the public's support for these core principles to be respected. Some people also mentioned they were pleased with the efforts JAG was making to consult the community and educate people about the cleanup options.

Future Site Use

Tar Ponds

The preferred future site use for the Tar Ponds site expressed by people is a mixed parkland area with waterway, recreational area with green space, playgrounds, family areas, and boardwalks.

From the quantitative section of the questionnaire, 41% of people chose parkland as their first choice, while 27% chose waterway as their first choice of site use.

From the qualitative section of the questionnaire, 44% chose parkland including 20 people who chose a combination of waterway and parkland.

Coke Ovens

From the quantitative section of the questionnaire, 41% chose parkland as their first choice for future use of the Coke Ovens site.

From the qualitative section of the questionnaire, 41% chose parkland as the preferred future use for the Coke Ovens site.

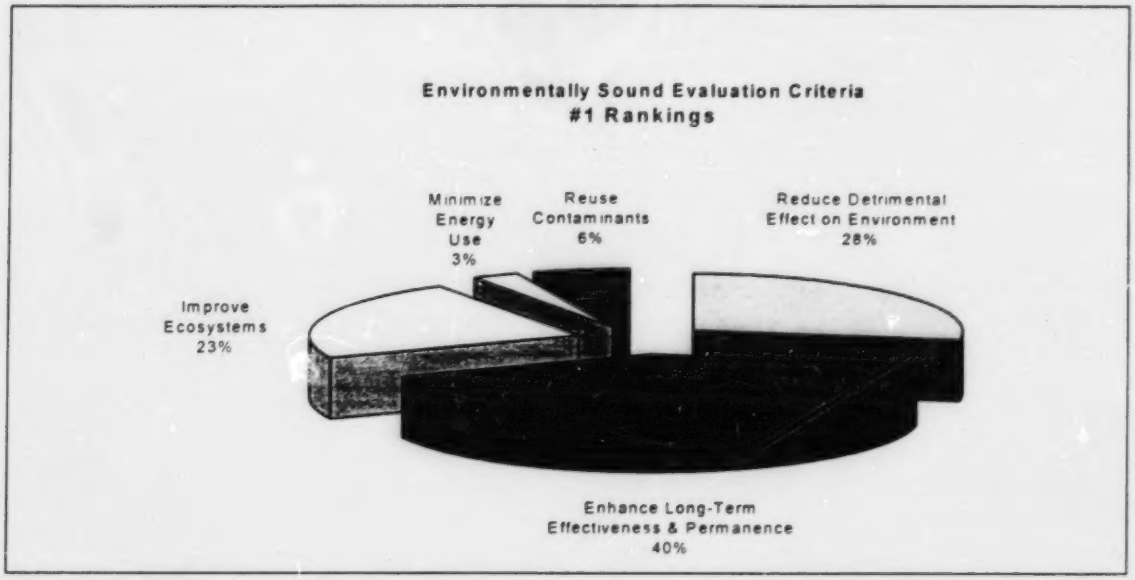
Core Principle: Environmentally Sound

Environmentally Sound: Actions which support and promote the protection, enhancement, and prudent use of the environment based on sound science and engineering principles, and that the precautionary principle will be used in decision-making so that where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, the lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a basis for postponing measures to prevent and eliminate environmental degradation.

Out of 454 workbooks, 375 ranked this section completely. One hundred and fifty people (40%) identified their first choice as being to enhance the long-term effectiveness and permanence of the cleanup. The second most important criterion is to reduce the detrimental effect on the environment (28%). Many believe that reducing this effect will actually improve the ecosystems naturally.

Priority Criteria

This pie chart represents the number of times each criterion was selected as the first choice by the public. The chart indicates the criteria that are most important to the community.


Environmentally Sound Evaluation Criteria
#1 Rankings
Minimize Energy Use 3%
Reuse Contaminants 6%
Reduce Detrimental Effect on Environment 28%
Improve Ecosystems 23%
Enhance Long-Term Effectiveness & Permanence 40%

Thematic comments

"The key is leaving an asset in the community that is environmentally safe, protecting human health."

"I feel that the Tar Pond/Coke Ovens should be cleaned up to maximize the standard of human health, ecosystems, etc. As well, decisions should be made to allow for the maximum sustainability of the area."

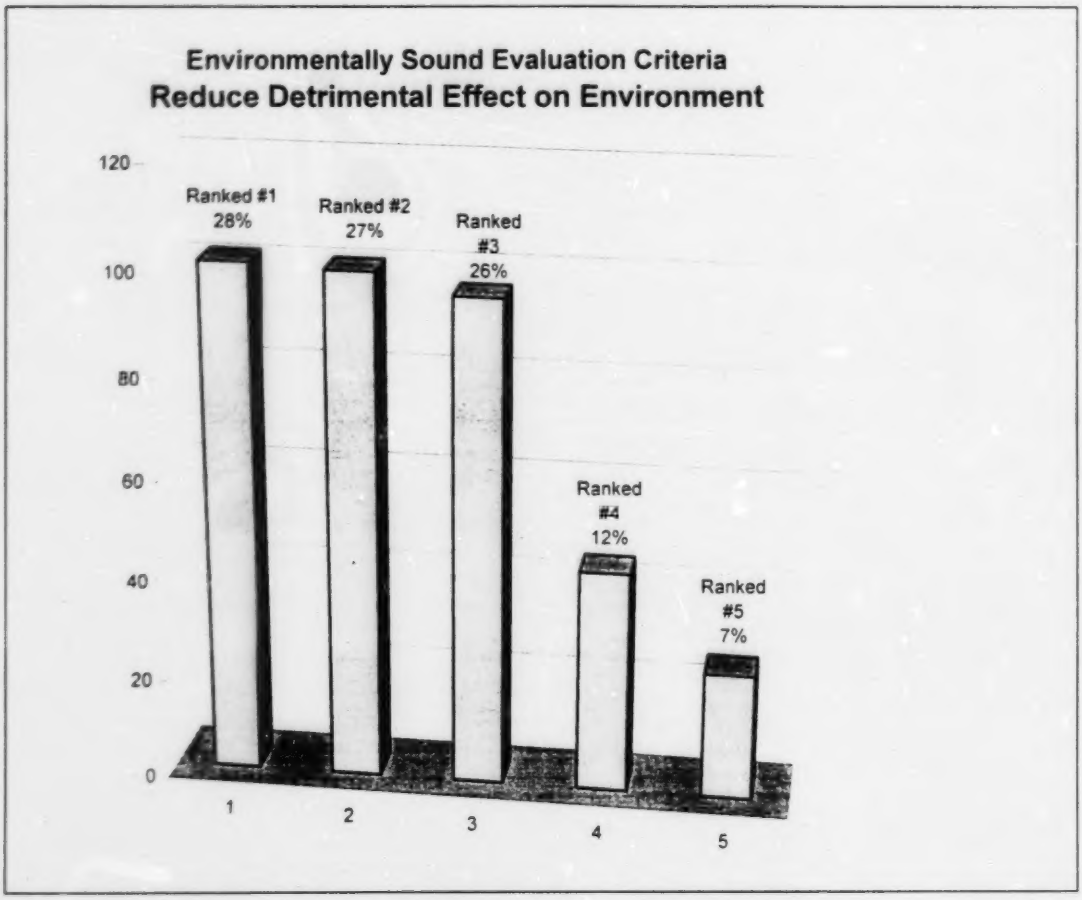
"I take the long-term view here. Short-term thinking is what caused this problem."

"To enhance long-term effectiveness and improve marine and land ecosystems will entail optimizing the other criteria."

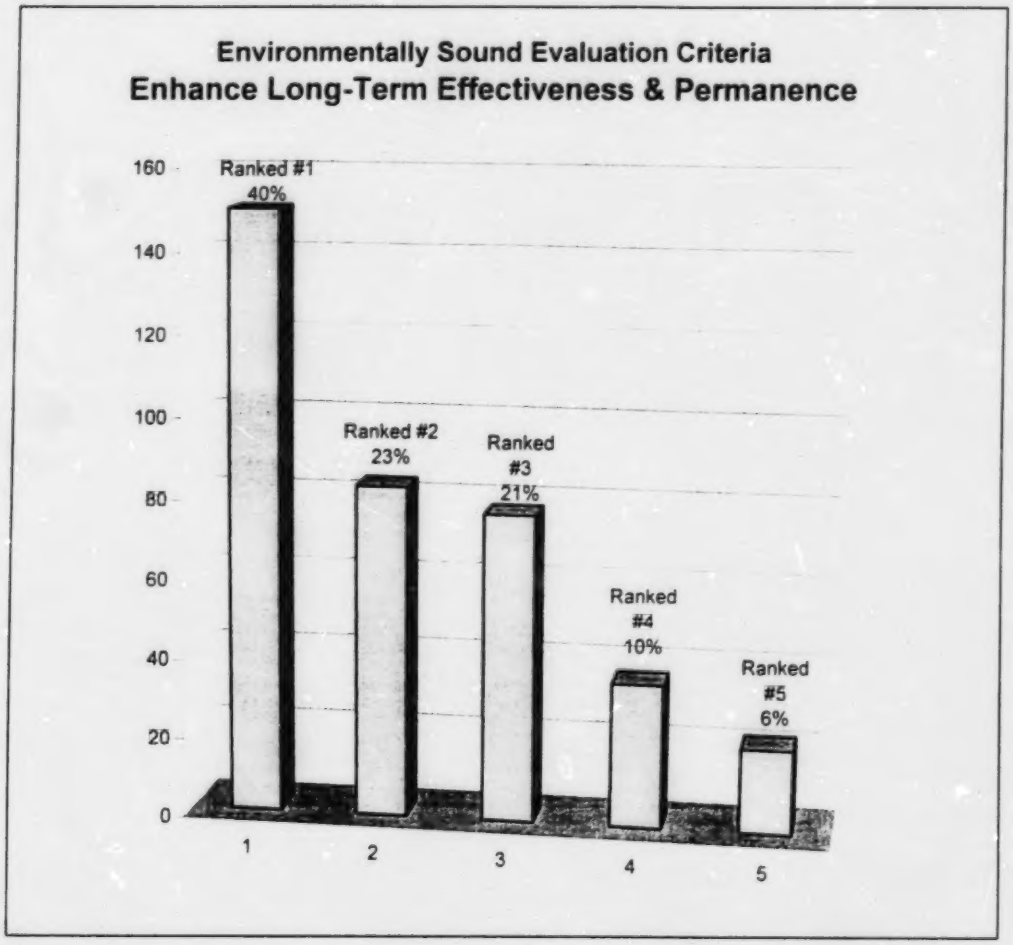
Distribution of Choice for Each Criteria

The following bar charts demonstrate the distribution of choice for each criterion tested under the core principle. This indicates the number of people who selected this criterion as their first, second, third, fourth or fifth choice.

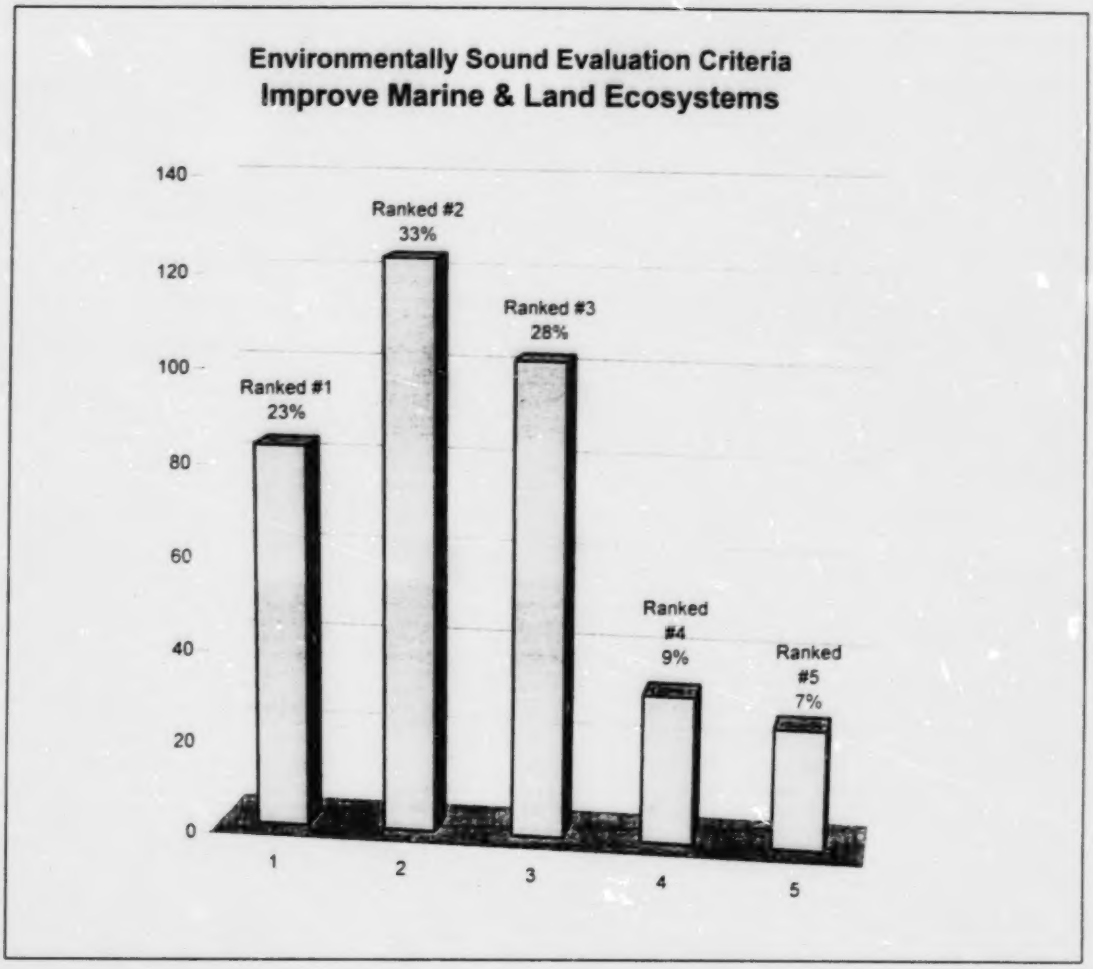
1. Reduce Detrimental Effect on the Environment



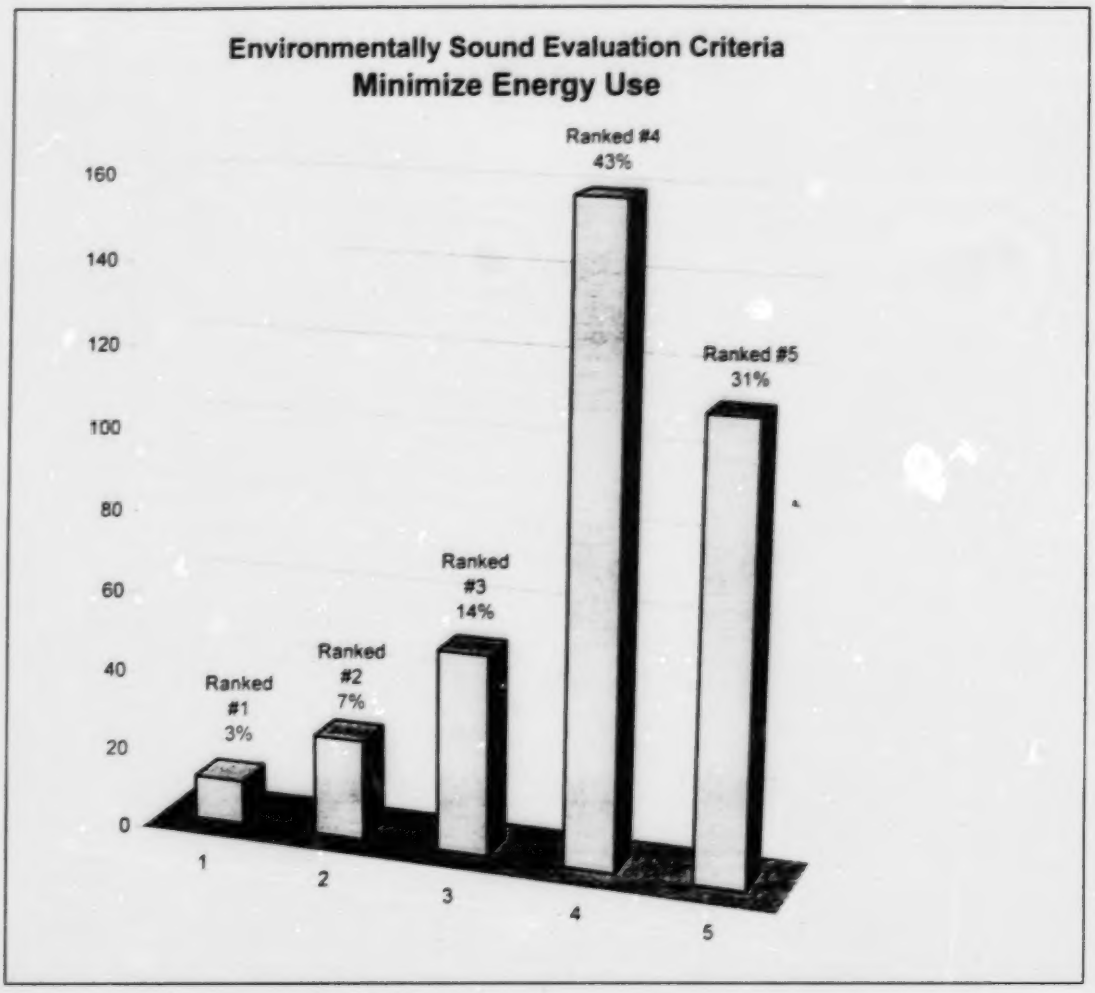
2. Enhance Long Term Effectiveness and Permanence



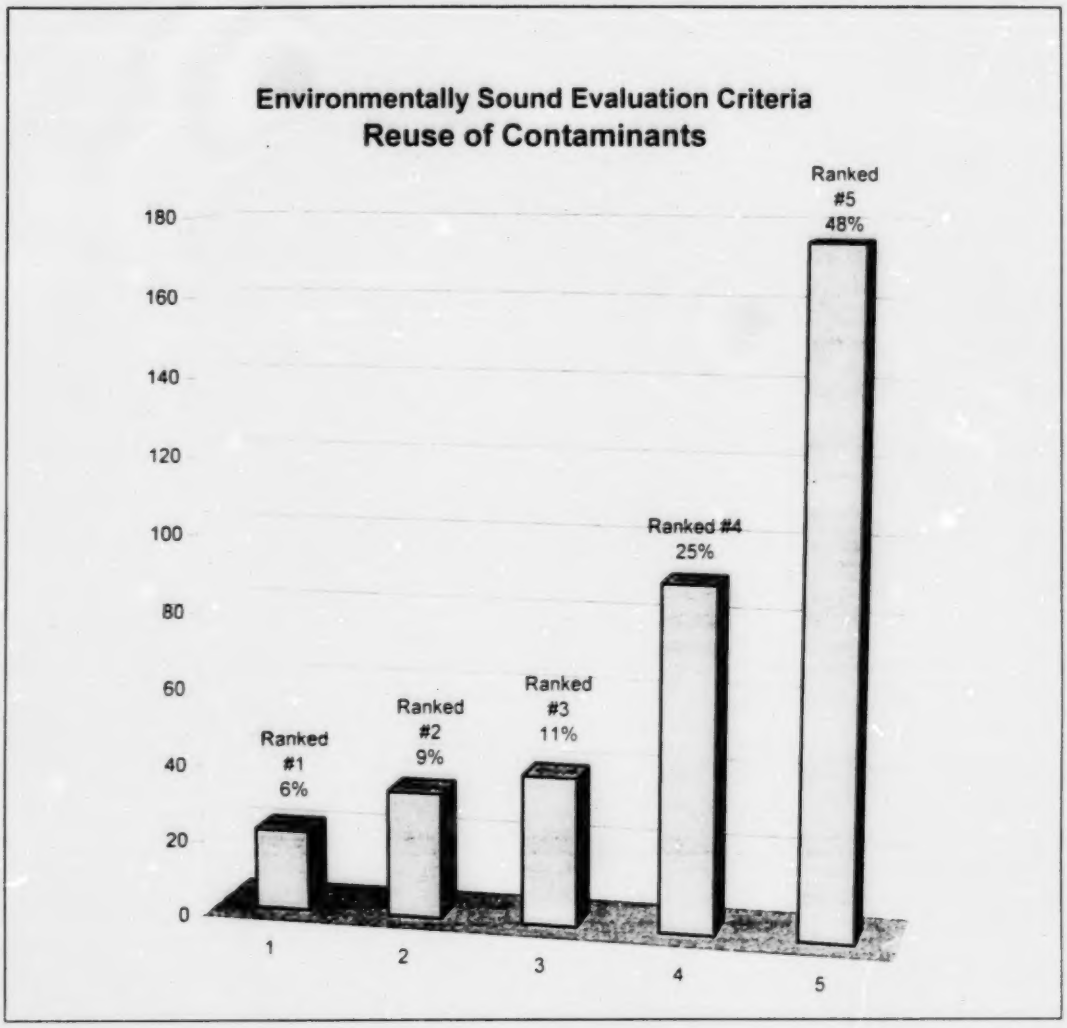
3. Improve Ecosystems



4. Minimize Energy Use



5. Reuse of Contaminants



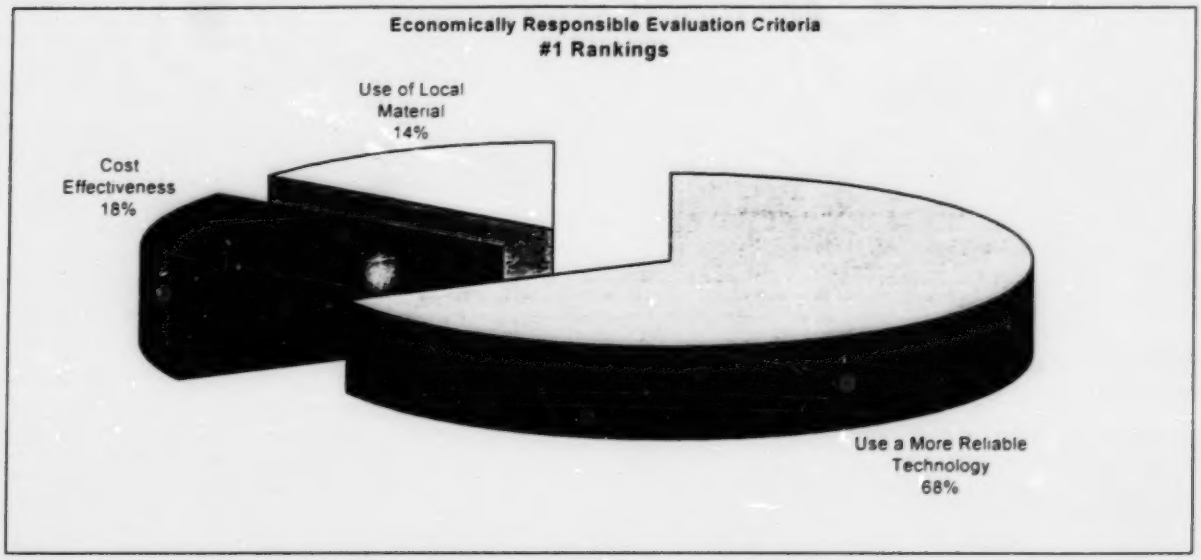
Core Principle: Economically Responsible

Economically Responsible: Ensuring that resources are used in an efficient and productive way such that the level of local economic benefits, inclusive of direct and indirect benefits, is acceptable to all parties for the results achieved as compared with the level of costs.

Out of 454 workbooks, 397 ranked this section completely. Two hundred and thirty-eight people (68%) indicated the use of a reliable technology as their most important criterion. Cost effectiveness and use of local materials were considered important, but secondary to the use of reliable technology.

Priority Criteria

This pie chart represents the number of times each criterion was selected as the first choice by the public. The chart indicates the criteria that are most important to the community people.


Economically Responsible Evaluation Criteria
#1 Rankings
Use of Local Material 14%
Cost Effectiveness 18%
Use a More Reliable Technology 68%

Thematic comments

"We may only get "one kick at the can" to remediate, so let's do it right the first time. We could benefit if local material is used, but it is not a necessity."

"A more reliable technology might lessen the cost of cleanup"

"We, the residents of Whitney Pier don't want any shortcuts. You have to use the best technology possible; less cost is not always the best choice. A cleanup well done will be something to be proud of."

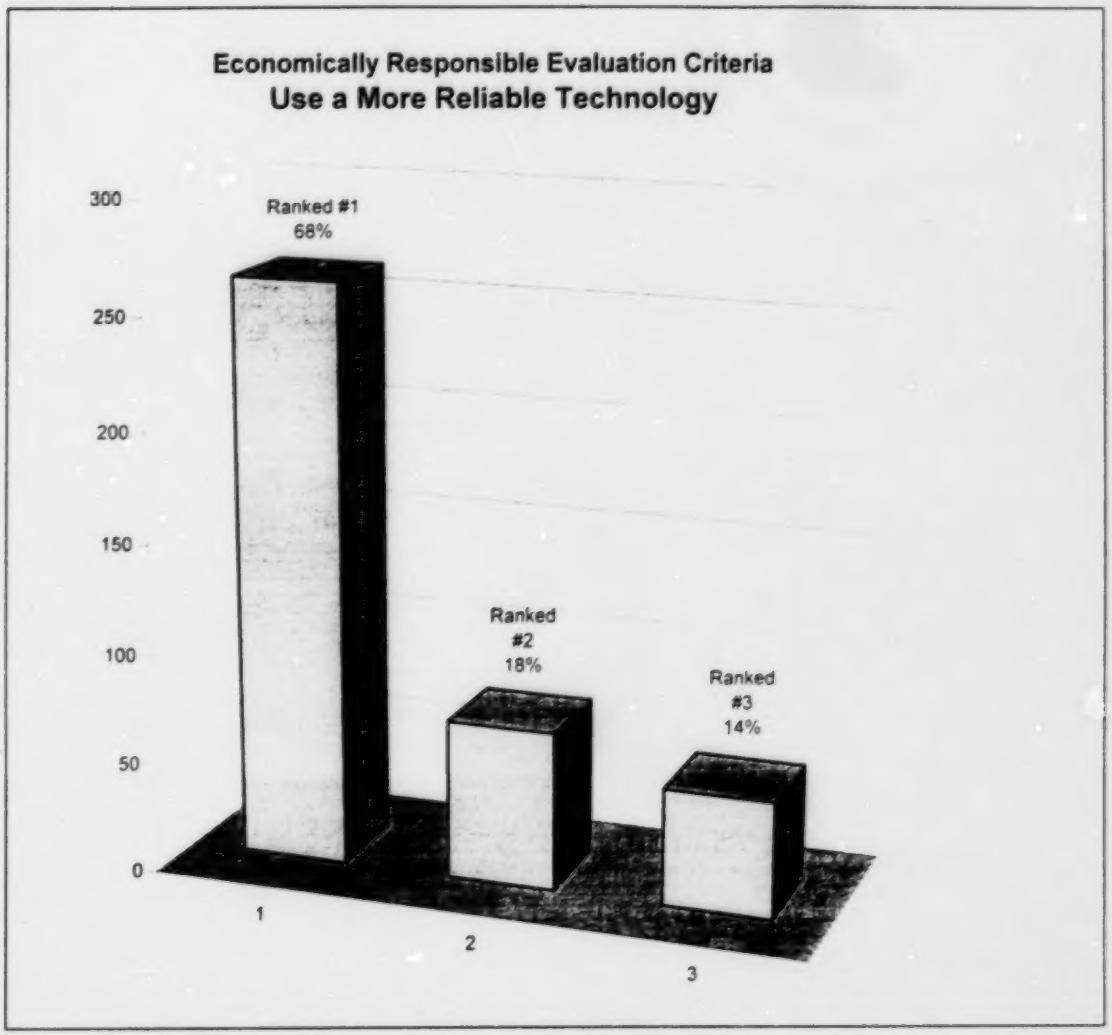
"Use the best technology available to do the best job."

"It is important to get the Tar Ponds cleaned up at any cost."

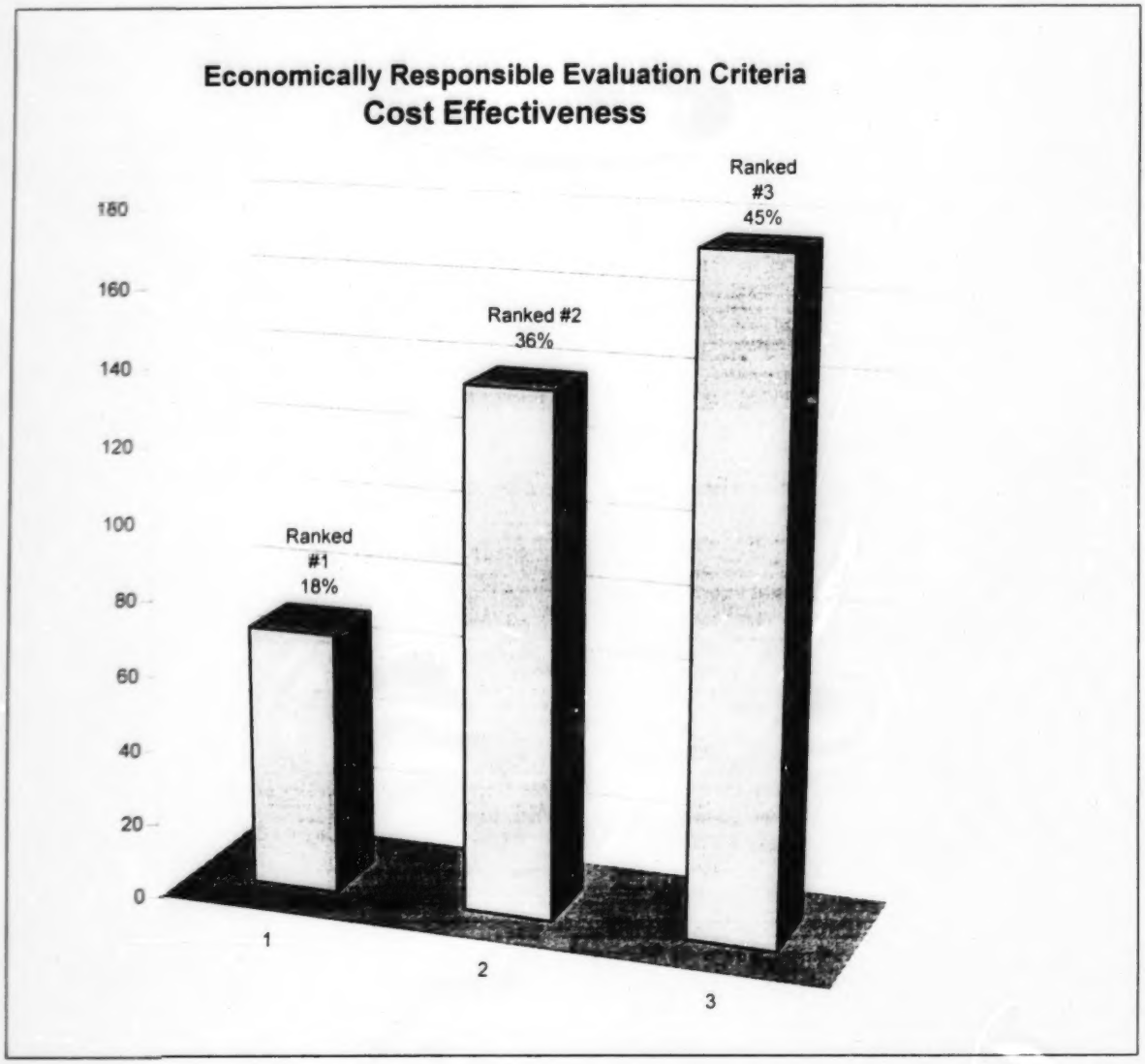
Distribution of Choice for Each Criteria

The following bar charts demonstrate the distribution of choice for each criterion tested under the core principle. This indicates the number of people who selected this criterion as their first, second or third choice.

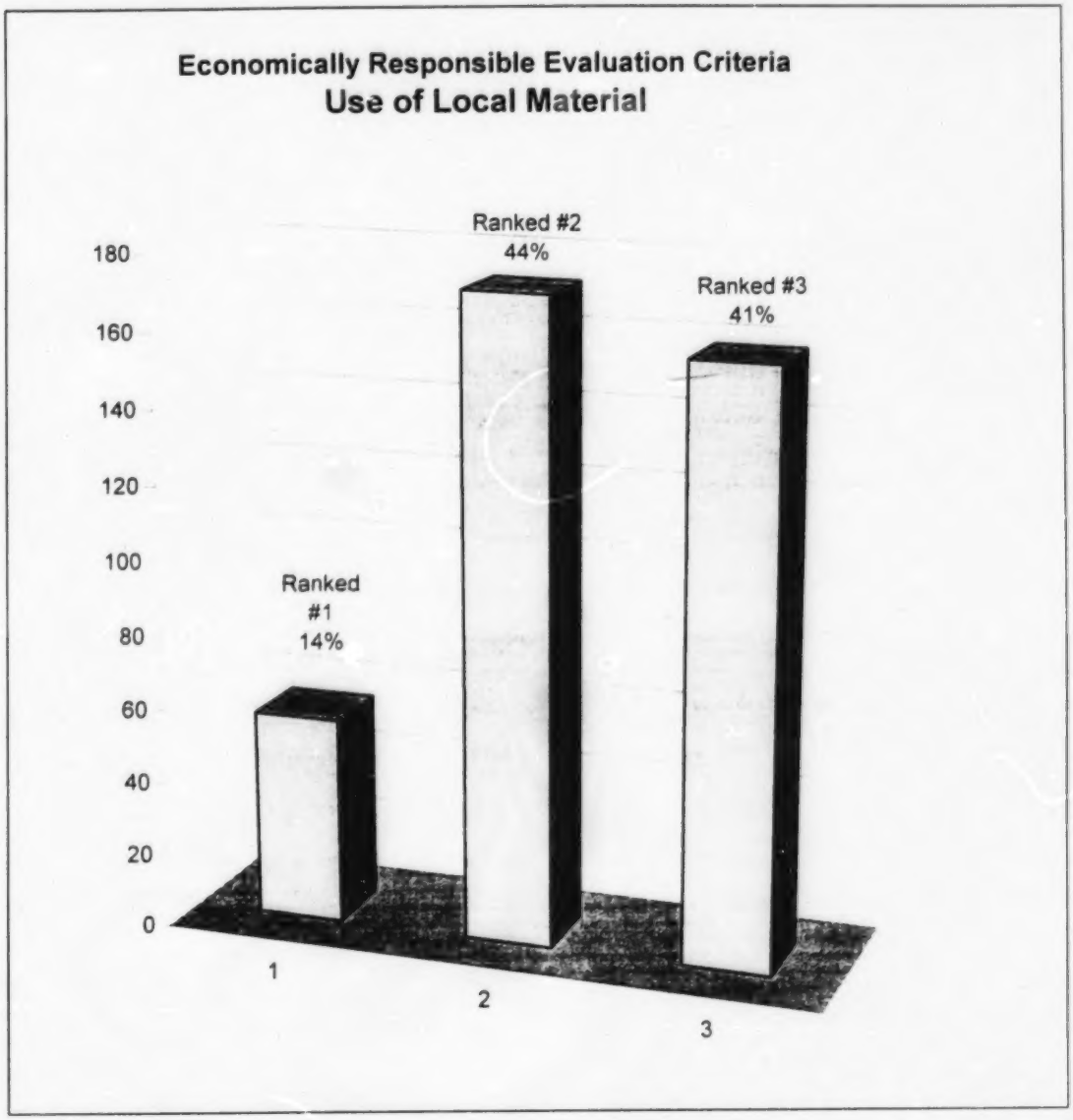
1. A More Reliable Technology



2. Cost Effectiveness



3. Use of Local Material



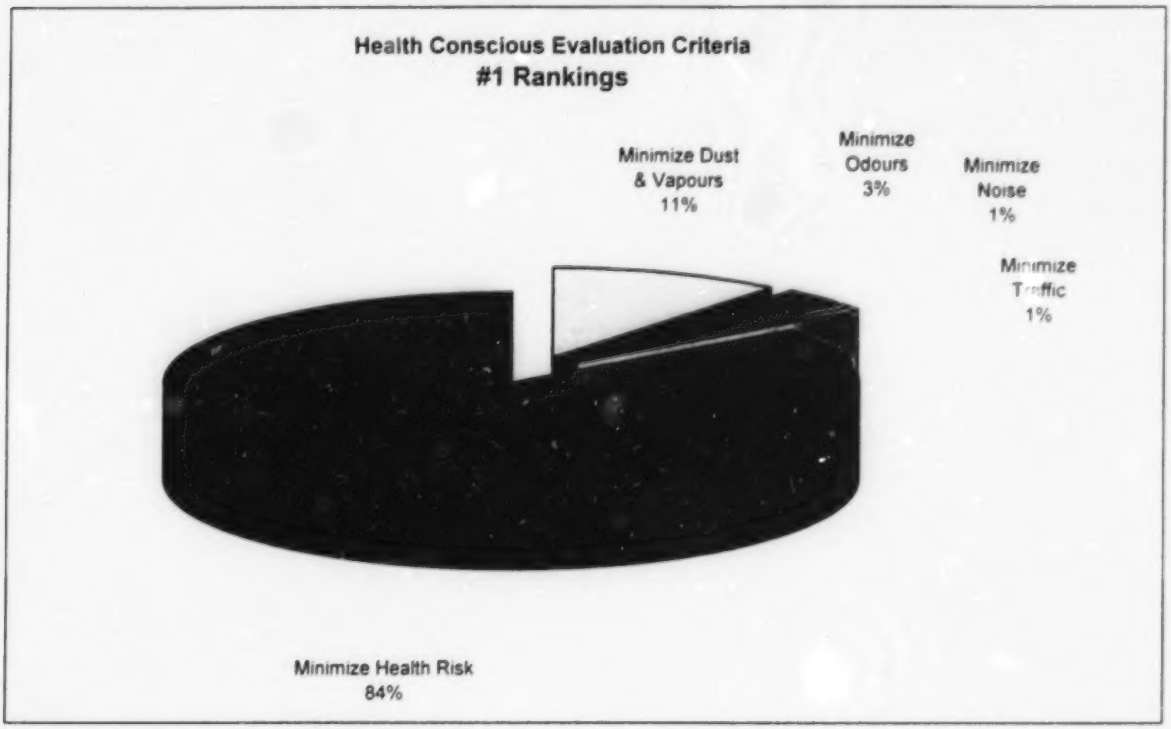
Core Principle: Health Conscious

Health Conscious: All actions of JAG are based on sound science and recognized standards and that no such actions will be undertaken whereby the community is exposed to unacceptable health risks.

Out of 454 workbooks, 377 ranked this section completely. Three hundred and seventeen people (84%) indicated a strong preference for keeping health risk to a minimum over the long term.

Priority Criteria

This pie chart represents the number of times each criterion was selected as the first choice by the public. The chart indicates the criteria that are most important to the community.



Thematic comments

"Health risk is the key issue and both short- and long-term are critical."

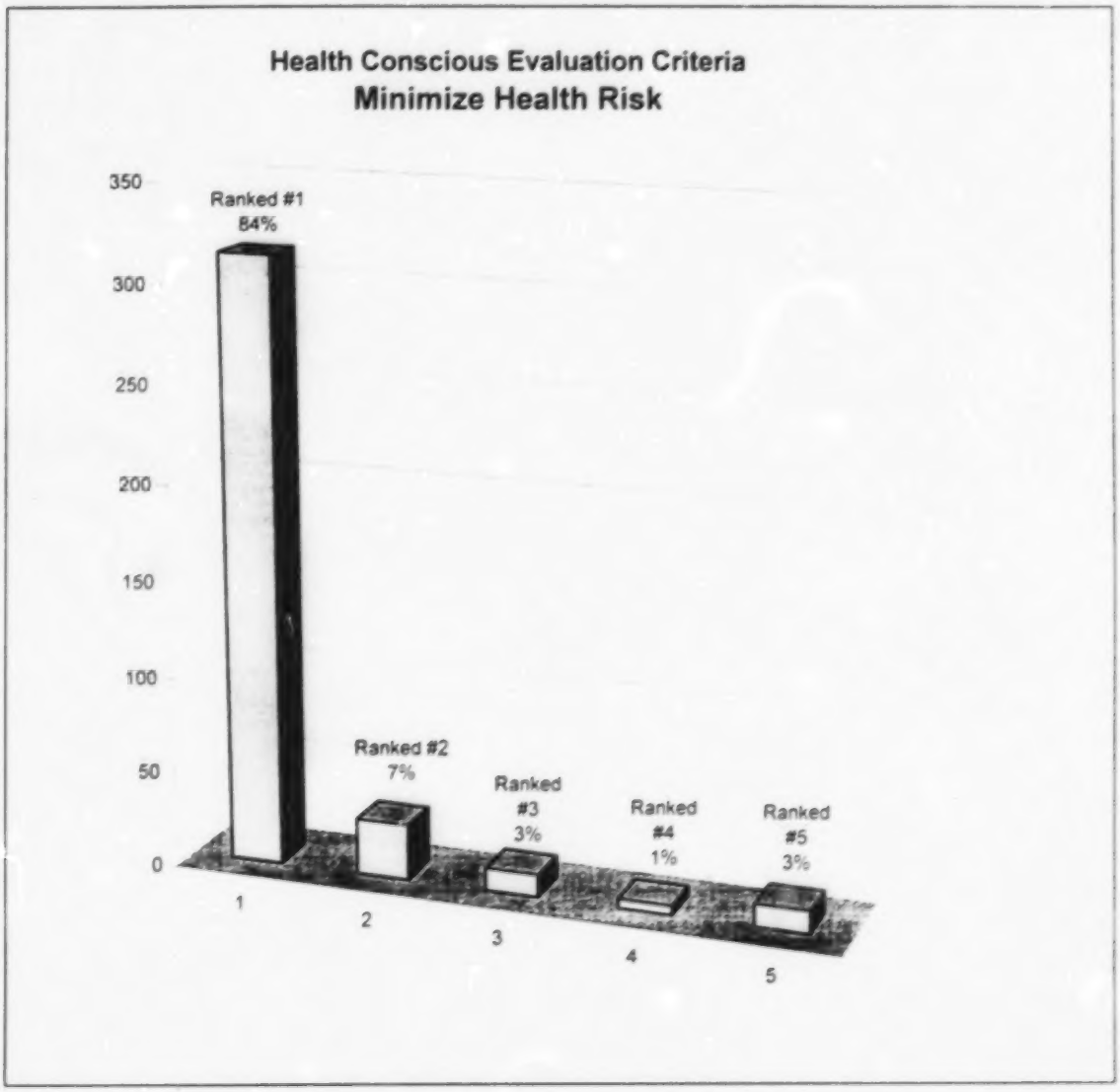
"Hopefully most will keep their eye on the ball and recognize short-term pain for long-term gain. We should be sure the tender contract language and specs will address methods to minimize general public health concerns, scheduling and timelines."

"All can have very detrimental effects on health, especially to those closest to the site. Human health is what this cleanup is or should be about."

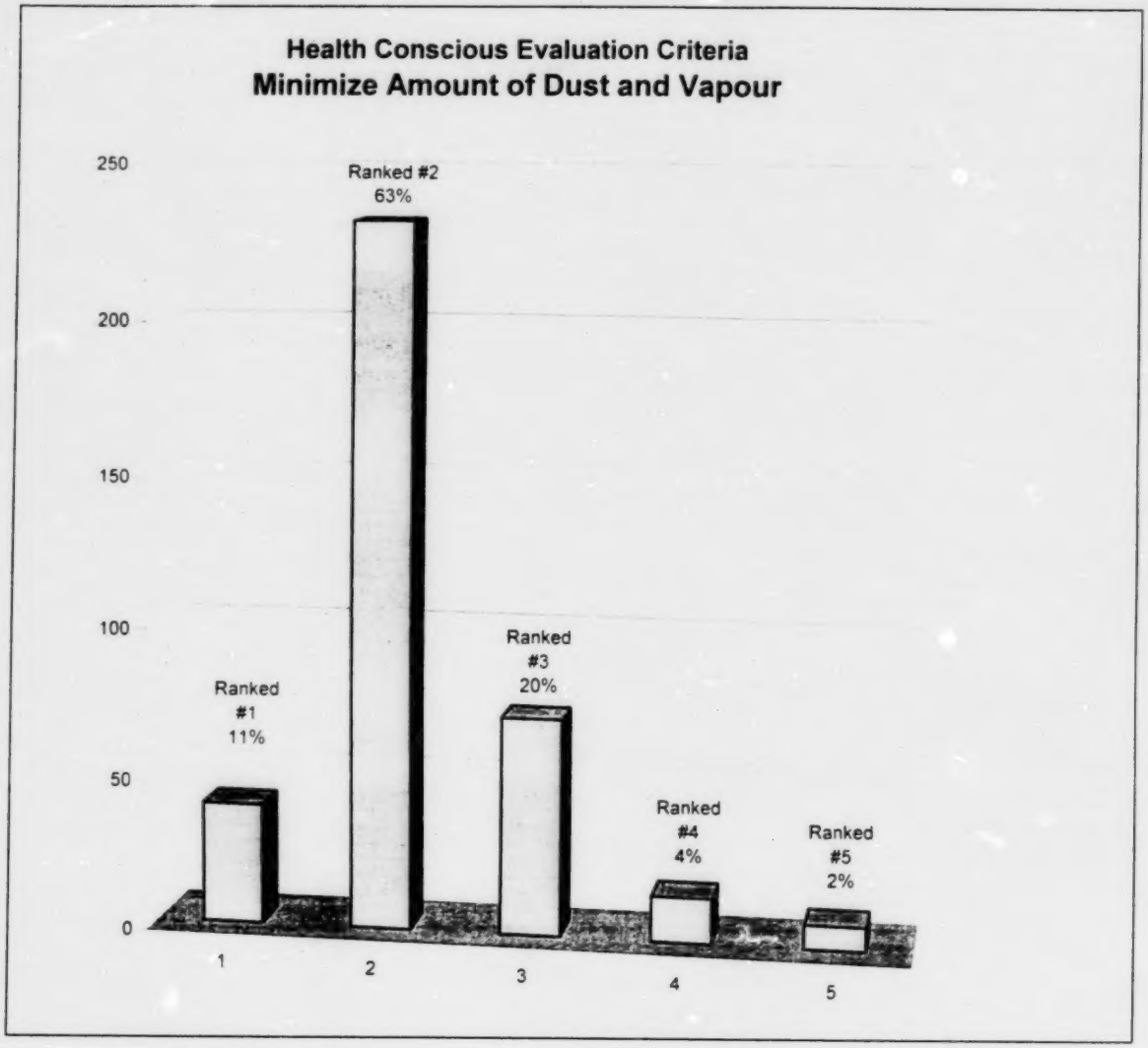
Distribution of Choice for Each Criteria

The following bar charts demonstrate the distribution of choice for each criterion tested under the core principle. This indicates the number of people who selected this criterion as their first, second, third, fourth or fifth choice.

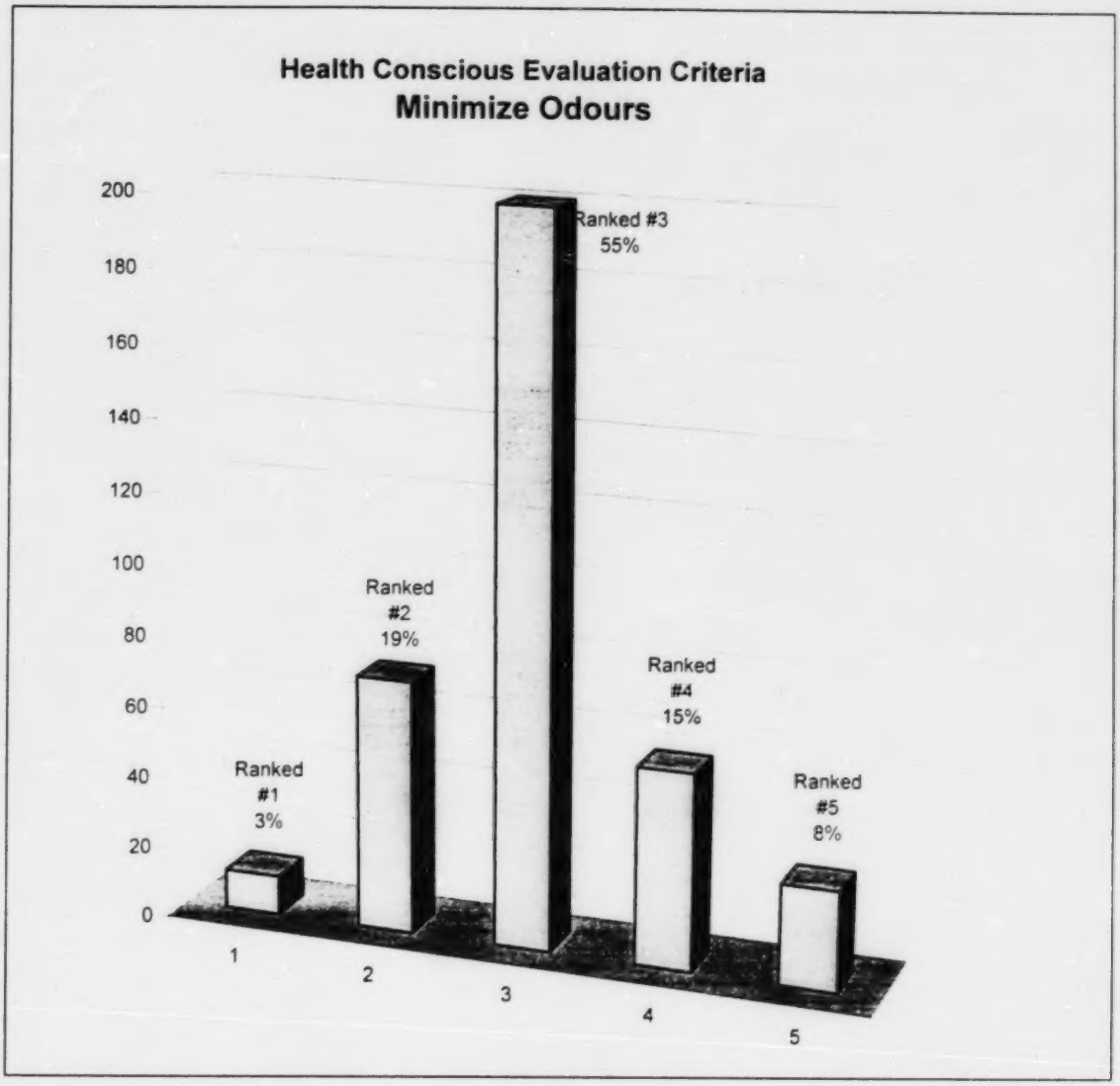
1. Minimize Health Risk



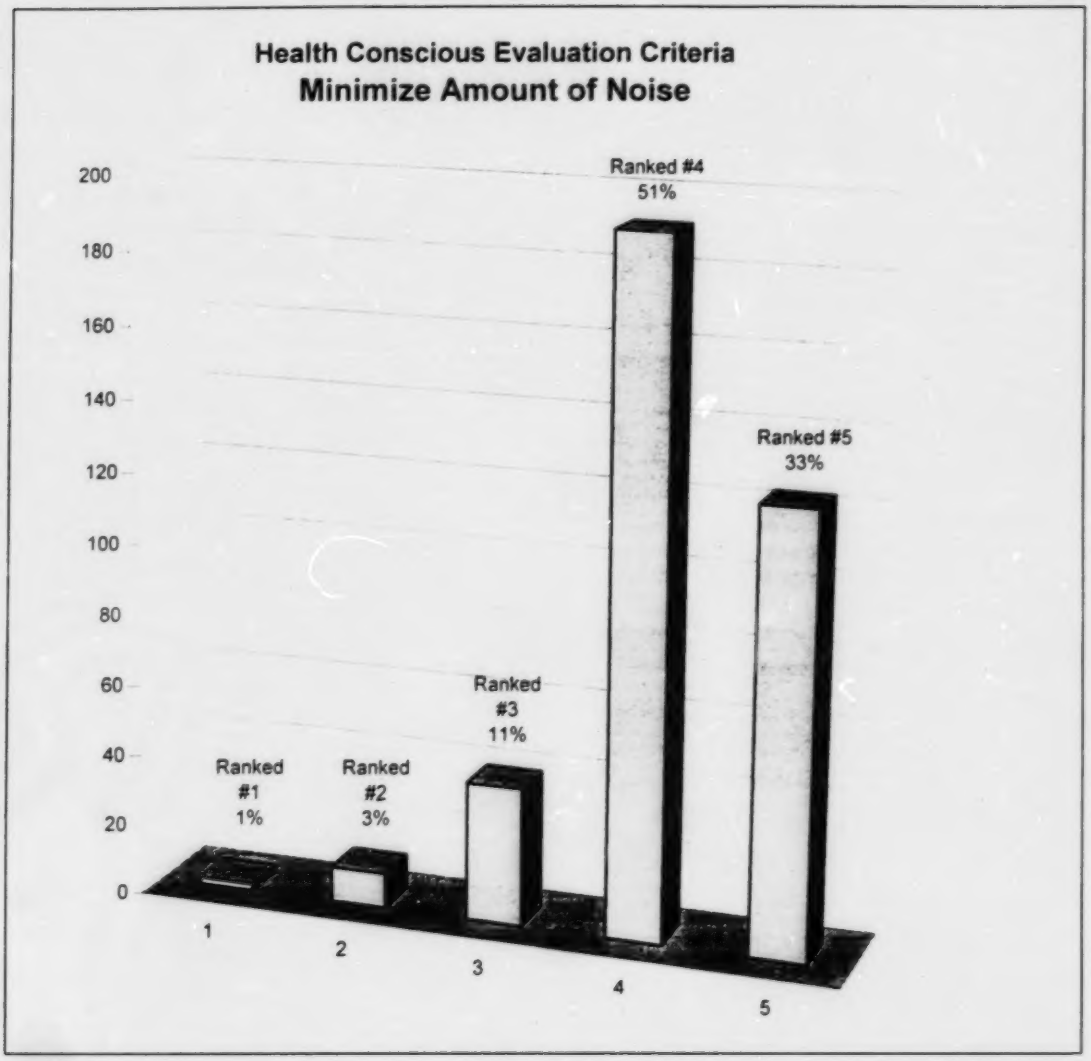
2. Minimize Amount of Dust and Vapours



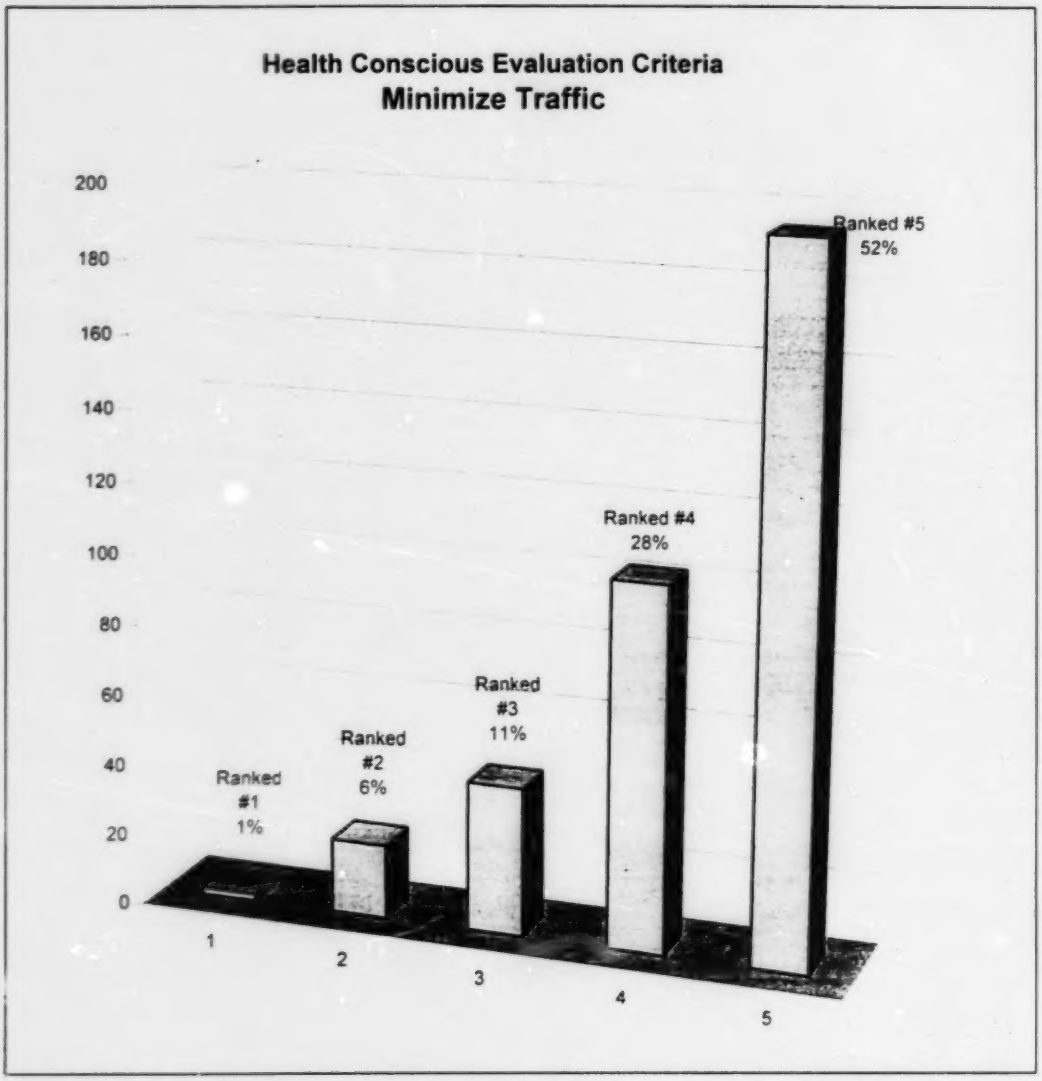
3. Minimize Odours



4. Minimize Amount of Noise



5. Minimize Traffic



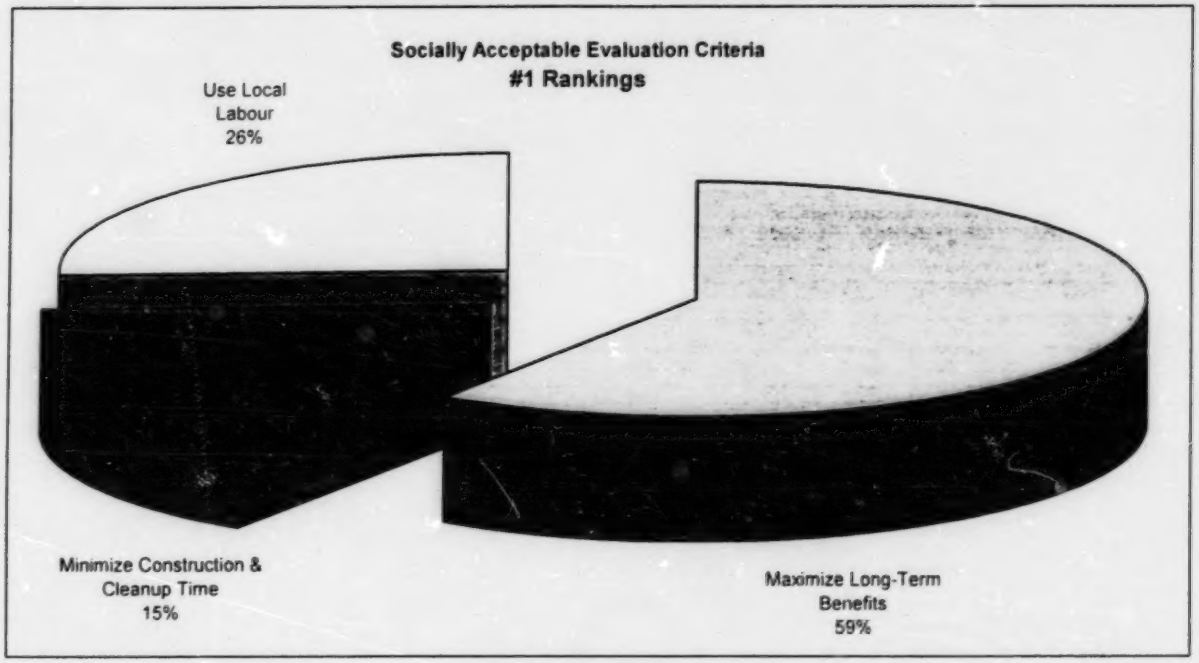
Core Principle: Socially Acceptable

Socially Acceptable: JAG shall ensure that all major decisions of JAG must be broadly understood and preferred by the citizenry of the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.

Out of 454 workbooks, 404 ranked this section completely. Two hundred and thirty-eight people (59%) want to maximize the long-term benefits of the cleanup. Although they would consider the cleanup method socially acceptable if it used local labour (26%), this is only true if it doesn't reduce the long-term benefit of the cleanup.

Priority Criteria

This pie chart represents the number of times each criterion was selected as the first choice by the public. The chart indicates the criteria that are most important to the community.


Socially Acceptable Evaluation Criteria
#1 Rankings
Use Local Labour 26%
Minimize Construction & Cleanup Time 15%
Maximize Long-Term Benefits 59%

Thematic comments

"The length of the cleanup is an issue, but I think they should take the time they need to do the job right."

"We want to maximize the long-term benefits as much as possible."

"Whatever option chosen would have to be accepted by the community."

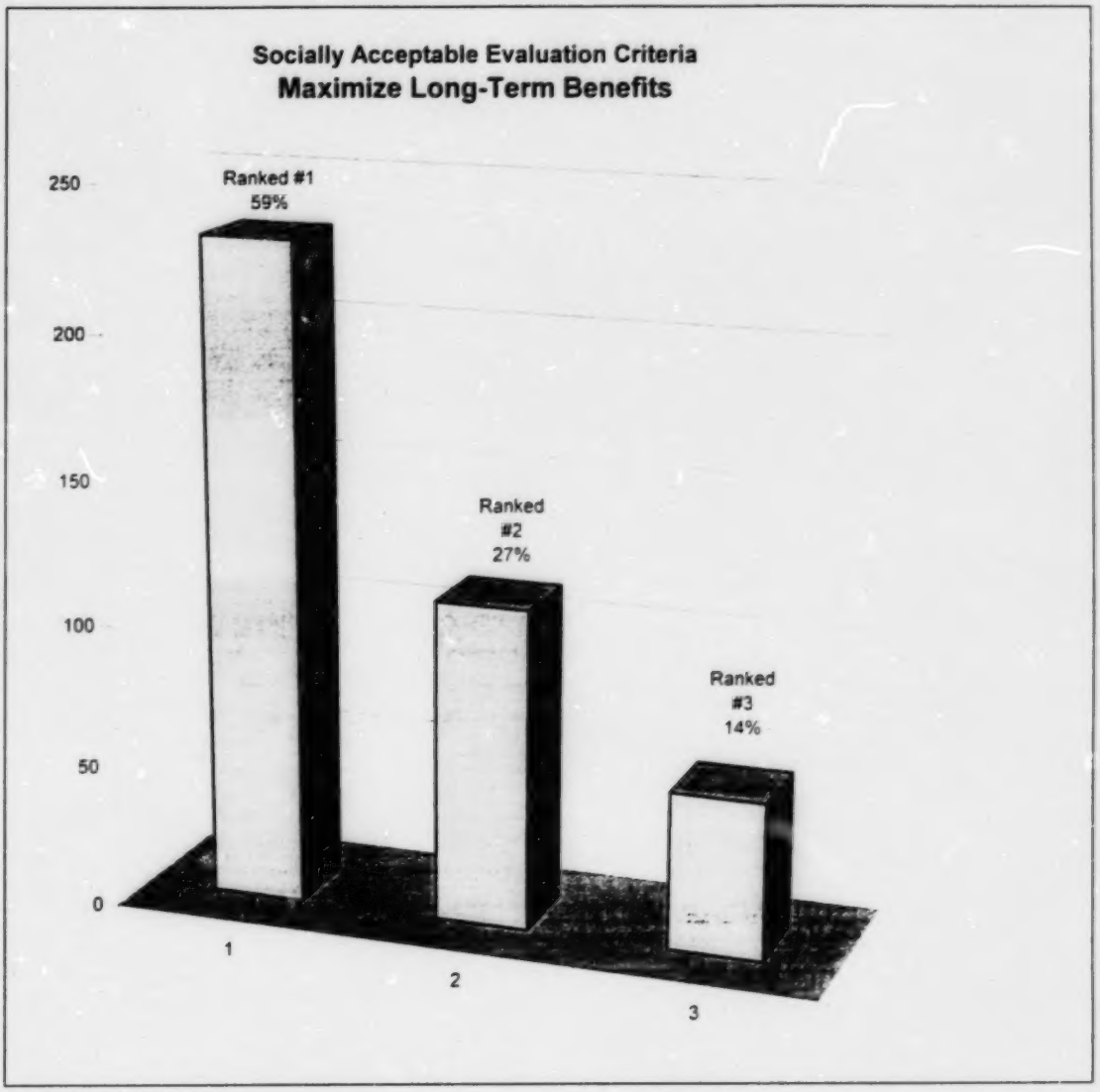
"We need jobs! Do it right even it if takes longer."

"Local labour should be a must. The pollution has killed this community, so we need some hope."

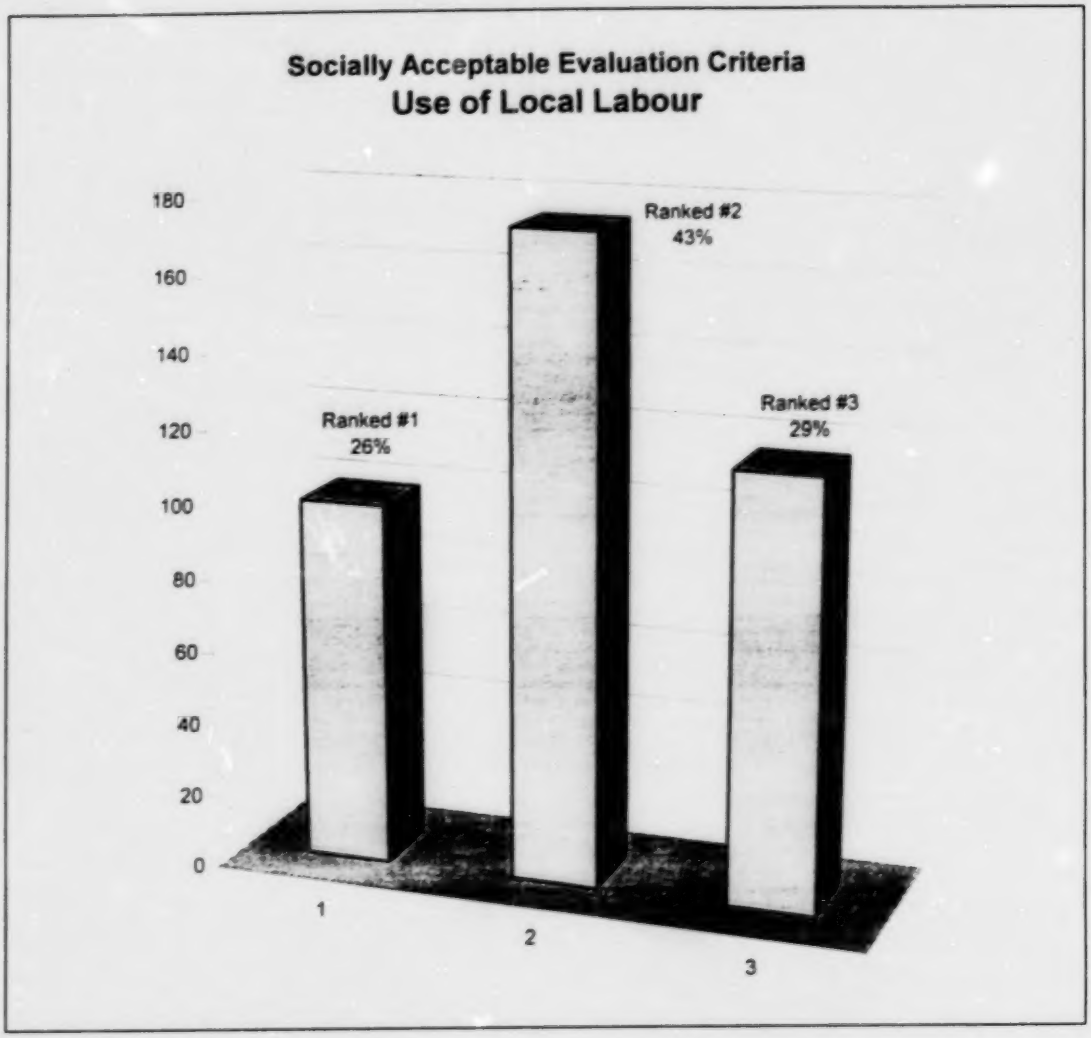
Distribution of Choice for Each Criteria

The following bar charts demonstrate the distribution of choice for each criterion tested under the core principle. This indicates the number of people who selected this criterion as their first, second or third choice.

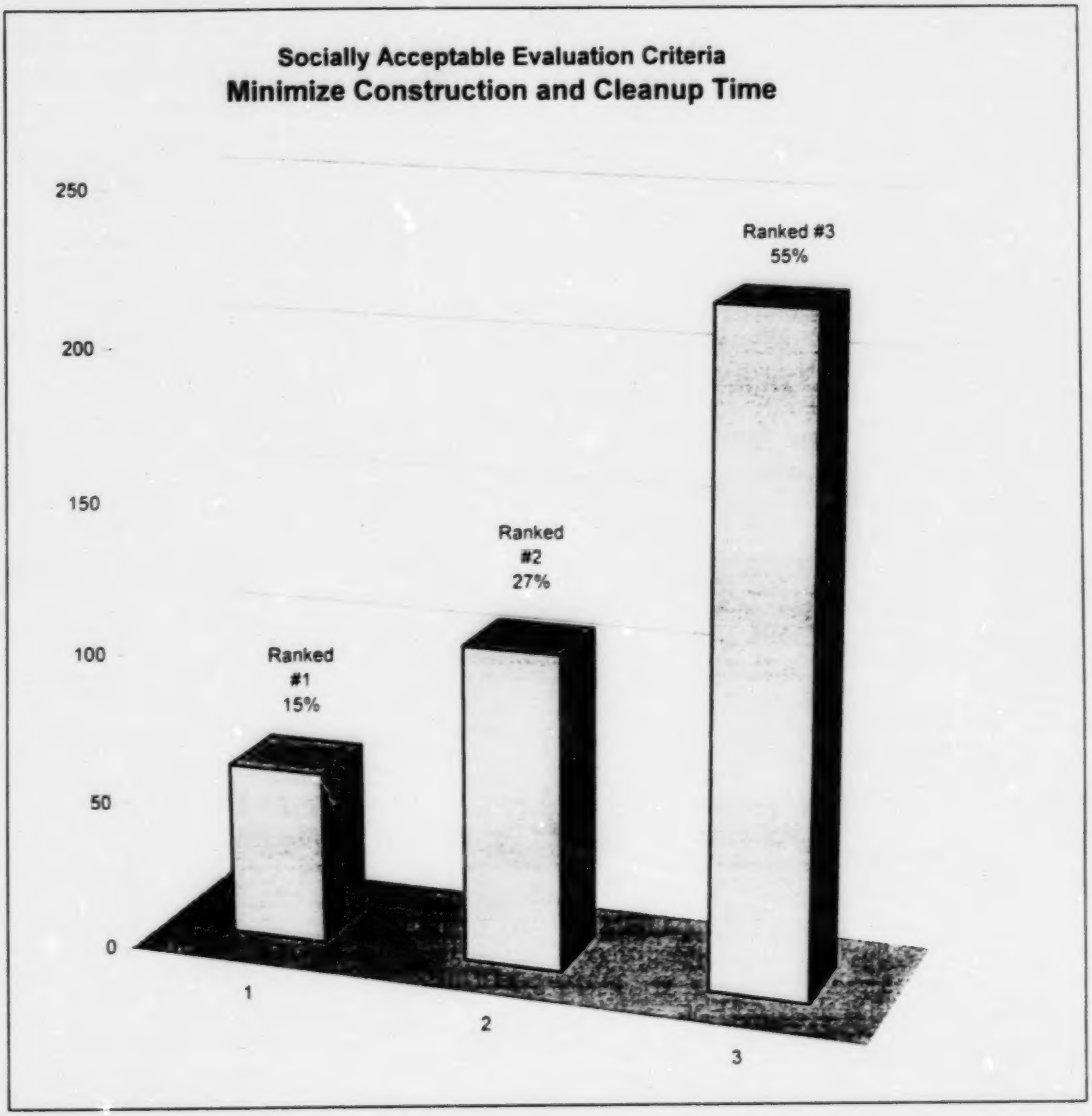
1. Maximize Long Term Benefits



2. Use of Local Labour



3. Minimize Construction and Cleanup Time



Core Principle: Community Driven

Community Driven: The direction, decisions, and actions made by JAG are based on consultation, input, and agreement of the wider community.

This section of the workbook asked people to offer qualitative comments only. Traditionally, people do not offer written comments if they feel their view has been accurately reflected in other sections of the data-collection instrument. In this case, only 218 workbooks of the total 454 include written comments. (Themes are presented in descending order according to frequency.)

Few people listed new criteria in this section. However, they took this opportunity to reiterate earlier comments. The themes are consistent with data provided in other parts of the workbook. The following describes the comments made, along with an indication of the number of respondents on a particular theme.

Are there any other criteria that matter to you under this core principle? (Please list and include in ranking)

1. Sixty-five of 218 respondents (30%) indicated that people agreed with the community driven core principles as stated.

   "I agree that it is very important that the community continues to be involved in the process."

   "The definition of community driven I think is good."

   "Great definition"

2. Thirty of 218 respondents (14%) provided positive comments about JAG.

   "The actions of the Joint Action Group have been just, fair, democratic, inclusive and open."

   "JAG has done an exceptional job in making the community aware of the environmental problems that stare us in the face each and every day."

3. Twenty people of 218 respondents (9%) indicated that community input is important.

   "*We must have input/advice and even decisions made by experts or professionals*".

   Others wanted to make sure that the public was kept informed as day-to-day progress of the cleanup proceeded (5 people), and that the community has input on any final recommendations (5 people).

4. Four people suggested that there might be too much emphasis on public participation.

Core Principle: Publicly Accountable

Publicly Accountable: The JAG process shall answer to the public, especially those in the community surrounding the Watershed; in order to do this, JAG commits to the following: 1. Open meetings to the public in general. 2. Accessible records in general. 3. Environmental and health-risk assessments for all remedial or cleanup tasks (as prescribed by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act and the Nova Scotia Environment Act,) acceptable to JAG and consistent with the legislative authority of the government parties. 4. Ongoing efforts to maximize making JAG having a community-driven process.

Only qualitative comments were solicited for this core principle. Many of the comments were commentary on the core principle description as given, or general comments rather than listing additional criteria. Only 129 of the 454 workbooks included comments about this core principle. The themes are presented in order according to frequency.

Are there any other criteria that matter to you under this core principle? (Please list and include in ranking.)

1. Forty-six out of 129 respondents (36%) indicated agreement with the principles given.

   "I agree it must be publicly accountable." "I think these criteria work as well."

2. Fourteen out of 129 respondents (11%) iterated that JAG continue to do a good job and remain accountable.

   "JAG is being very publicly accountable and going forward in a very acceptable manner."

Additionally, people added that:

- JAG must be seen as representative, independent and reliable (5 people).
- The process should be open and transparent (2 people).
- The process should be financial accountability (2 people)

Two people stressed that the public expects explanations with support from experts.

General Comments Section

This section highlights the qualitative comments made at the end of the ranking section of the workbook. Not everyone who responded to the ranking section added comments at the end of their book. For this reason, the total number of comments made does not equal the total number of workbooks analyzed. 347 out of 454 people completed the General Comments section. Several themes were repeated throughout the comments given. We have indicated the number of respondents expressing a particular theme.

What is your greatest concern regarding the cleanup of the Tar Ponds and Coke Ovens sites?

1. One hundred thirty-three out of 347 people (38%) expressed major concern that the cleanup be done safely, with no further release of toxins or damage. The health of the community is of great concern to people.

   "That people's health will be first and foremost during and after the cleanup."

   "The health of present and future generations. Don't make things worse!"

   "The health and welfare of the community is my greatest concern."

2. The second greatest concern expressed was how long it was taking to begin the cleanup process. Fifty-seven people (16%) feared that there will be further delay in the cleanup. Twenty people (6%) were concerned that the cleanup may never happen or be postponed indefinitely.

   "Get it done!"

   "How long it seems to be taking."

   "That it never really gets cleaned up; gets studied to death."

   "I'm really worried that the cleanup may stop 'mid-stream' due to government changing or lack of interest."

3. The third greatest concern reflects the priority indicated earlier in the rankings. Thirty-one people (9%) are concerned that the job must be done properly and is permanent.

   "Must be done carefully and with as much speed as possible."

   "That the cleanup will not be done properly."

   "Do it right the first time."

How might your life change after the cleanup?

1. Fifty-one out of 347 people (15%) indicated that their life will be better after the cleanup because of a greater peace of mind and relief from worry. They would be living in a safer, cleaner community.

   "We will be relieved of worry regarding health and environment."

   " Peace of mind – that we would finally be rid of the toxic waste."

   "Less anxiety. Less worry of our descendants having to live under these conditions."

2. Thirty-eight people (11%) indicated that there would be more community pride after the cleanup. A better image of Sydney will be presented to the outside world.

   "I would have more community/civic pride."

   "A strong feeling of overall community pride at seeing the completion of a job well done."

   "Black mark gone from our beautiful island."

   "Sydney's reputation will improve."

3. Thirty people (9%) said that their life would not change, as they did not live directly in the affected area.

   "I do not live in the area, so no change."

4. Twenty-three people (7%) said that their health would be better.

   "Health-wise it should improve a lot." "More positive outlook for my health."

5. Nineteen people (5%) indicated that their life would not be affected or that it was unlikely they would be alive in 2010 but they will be happy for future generations.

   "Future generations will not be at risk for cancer, lung problems etc."

   "A nice clean city for my 26 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren to come home to visit."

6. Seventeen people (5%) indicated the great relief that would result from being able to breathe clean air.

   "Clean air to breathe."

7. A comment that came from younger respondents was that the cleanup would improve their chances of staying in Sydney or returning to raise a family here. (5 people or 1%)

   "I will be away at university... but I can honestly say that knowing the Tar Ponds are cleaned up and no longer pose a health risk then I would be more likely to return to CB to raise a family."

It is the year 2010. You are driving past the former Tar Ponds and Coke Oven site. What do you see, what would you like to see?

1. The largest group of respondents (183 people out of 347 or 53%) indicated that they wished to see some kind of public park or natural green space. This was often referred to as trees, green grass, flowers and ducks in a pond. Comments often indicated that various recreational activities take place in this park space.

   "I'd love to see greenery – trees, flowers, etc."

   "Public gardens"

   "A beautiful green park and playground area."

   "Recreation for young and old people alike."

   "Boardwalk"

   Twenty-five people (14%) specifically indicated that activities such walking paths, picnic areas, playgrounds, swimming, rollerblading, tennis courts or playing fields be present.

2. Twenty-six people (7%) mentioned a light industrial park, often combined with green space as what they would like to see.

   "A busy industrial site employing a significant number of people."

3. Nine people (3%) suggested that they would just like to see the whole mess gone and the space cleaned up with no preference as to what they would specifically like to see.

   "People enjoying the clean environment."

4. Eight people (2%) mentioned the need to revitalize downtown or commercial business districts.

5. Six people (2%) mentioned was that some kind of monument or centre that explained the history of what has happened on the site would be a good idea.

   "A monument to what was."

6. A general theme that emerged came from youth respondents. Most made appreciative comments that they were included and that their opinions were valid.

   "I appreciate the time with the JAG workshop and having my questions answers. To know even youth can have a say is a great feeling!!!"

Final Comments

The majority of respondents did not offer any final comments. The ones that did offer comments often echoed once again that the job be done quickly and properly. As well, the process of gathering public input was effective and should be sustained. (25 people or 7%).

"Sydney can start to look forward, not backward and this will help get the economy moving with benefits for all."

"Future generations will judge how we did this. Let's not blow our opportunity."

"If we get this right, we can market this to the world."

"Hopefully this will be used as an example for other successful cleanups."

"The presentation exceeded my expectations (workbook, facilitator, technical presentations). It was an effective approach."

"Now that I see your plan, I think there is a good chance of success."

"It is so refreshing to see a survey/info gathering exercise that gives people the opportunity to express themselves in words rather than just assigning a number to a statement."

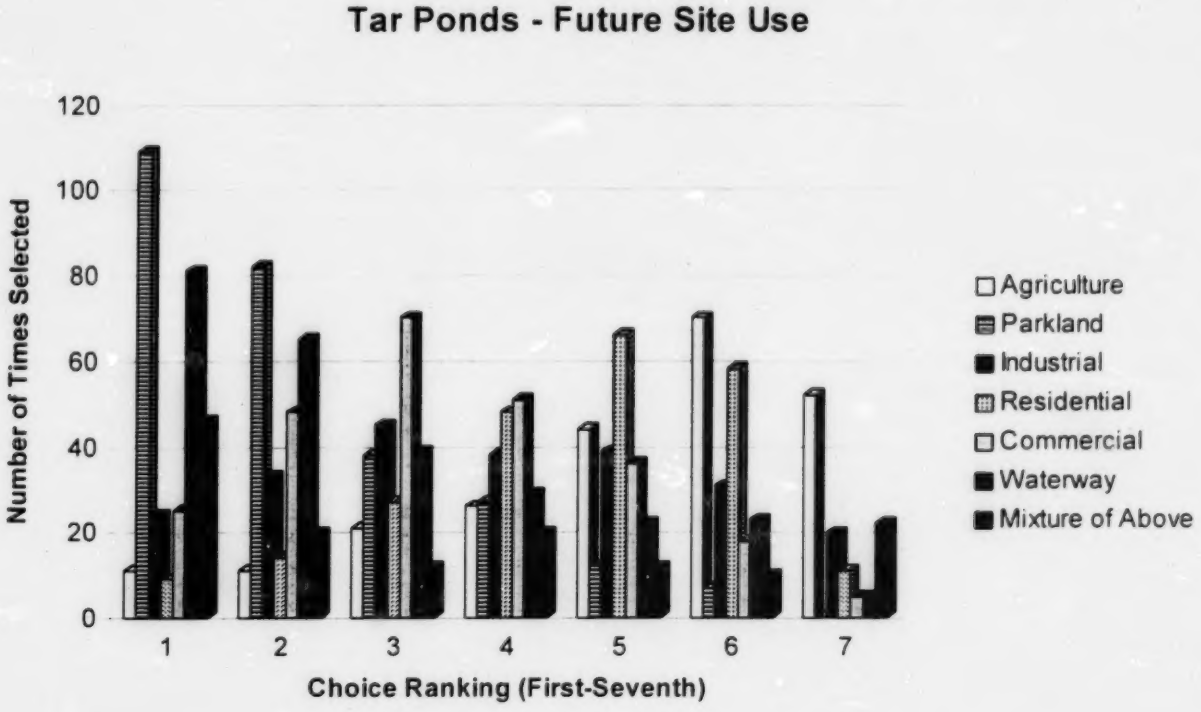
Future Site Use

A one-page questionnaire was used to gather quantitative information through ranking of future site use choices and qualitative information through open-ended questions about land use. The qualitative information was often a reiteration of what was emphasized in the quantitative information. Information was gathered on the Tar Ponds and Coke Oven sites.

Tar Ponds

Quantitative Data

Out of 321 questionnaires, 300 people responded to the ranking criteria. From this data parkland was rated as the preferred choice followed by waterway, commercial and mixed use.



As indicated in the bar graph, the following table indicates the number of times each land use option was selected as first choice, second choice, third choice, fourth choice, fifth choice, sixth choice and seventh choice of the Tar Ponds site.

Tar Ponds Site	Number of Times Selected						
Land Use Option	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
Agriculture	11	11	21	26	44	70	52
Parkland	109	82	38	27	12	7	0
Industrial	24	33	45	38	39	31	20
Residential	9	14	27	48	66	58	11
Commercial	25	48	70	51	36	18	5
Waterway	81	65	39	29	22	23	5
Mixture of Above	46	20	12	20	12	10	22

Qualitative Data (Tar Ponds Site)

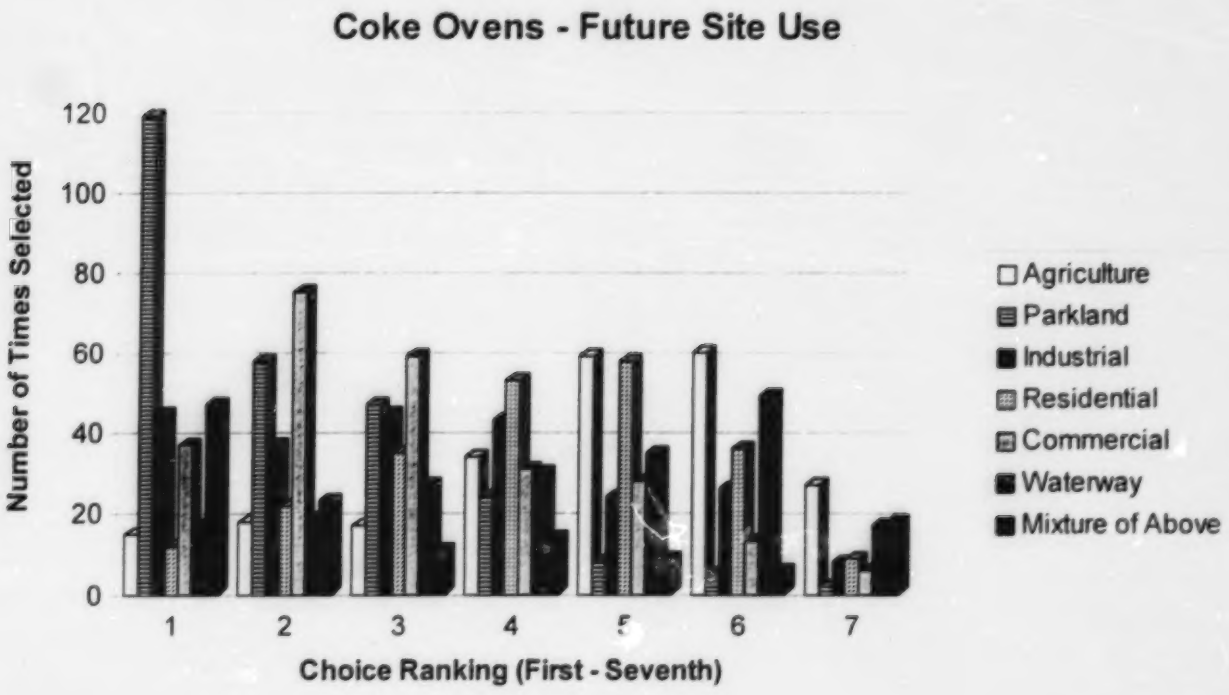
Out of 321 questionnaires, 241 filled in the qualitative section of this form. These comments were grouped by theme and the list below demonstrates how many times a similar comment was made. These comments repeated written comments made elsewhere in the data collection tools. They do not, therefore, represent new data.

106 park/parkland
66 waterway
39 commercial/shops/mall/businesses
21 recreational area
21 marina/boating
18 boardwalk
14 light industrial
13 residential
9 green space
9 tourist attractions/bureau
8 trails (walking, biking)
7 agriculture/gardens
6 swimming area/pool
6 golf course
5 duck pond
5 playgrounds/family area
5 access road/connector
4 Skate park
3 job/work producing enterprise
2 wetlands
2 amusement/theme park
2 returned to tidal estuary/natural state
1 College/university site
1 memorial park
1 museum

Coke Ovens

Quantitative data

Out of 321 questionnaires, 289 people responded to the ranking criteria. From this data parkland was rated as the preferred choice followed by commercial, industrial, and mixed use.



As indicated in the bar graph, the following table indicates the number of times each land use option was selected as first choice, second choice, third choice, fourth choice, fifth choice, sixth choice and seventh choice for the Coke Ovens site.

Coke Ovens Site	Number of Times Selected						
Land Use Option	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Agriculture	15	18	17	34	59	60	27
Parkland	119	58	47	24	8	5	2
Industrial	45	37	45	43	24	26	8
Residential	12	22	35	53	58	36	9
Commercial	37	75	59	31	28	13	6
Waterway	17	19	27	30	35	49	17
Mixture of Above	47	23	11	14	9	6	18

Qualitative Data (Coke Ovens Site)

Out of 321 questionnaires, 241 people responded in the qualitative section. These comments were grouped by theme and the list below demonstrates how many times a similar comment was made. These comments repeated written comments made elsewhere in the data collection tools. They do not, therefore, represent new data.

98 parklands
49 commercial
39 light industrial
38 golf course
28 general recreational use
25 highway/road connector
22 residential/housing
17 trails (walking, biking)
13 green area/space
10 shops/shopping centre/mall
9 ball/soccer field
7 agriculture
7 waterway
4 businesses/business park
4 skate/skateboard park
3 tourist attraction/site
3 museum
3 public swimming pool
1 water & sewage treatment plant
1 2011 Canada Summer Games site
1 amusement park
1 dry dock
1 marina
1 public interpretive space
1 community garden
1 art gallery for Maritime artists
1 job producing business
1 expansion of UCCB campus
1 restaurant